

**Form Letter- received over 200  
(Received via e-mail)**

**From:** Frank Ledwell  
**To:** <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 2/12/2009 2:36 PM  
**Subject:** Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order, Rubicon Trail, El Dorado County,CA

smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive # 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

To Whom It May Concern,

The Rubicon Trail is the most scenic & challenging off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail in the world. This trail provides recreational opportunities for thousands of OHV enthusiasts who travel from all corners of the earth to experience this unique one-of-a-kind trail.

After carefully reviewing your Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO), issued to El Dorado County, I respectfully request that you take into consideration the following comments regarding this issue:

1. Request for Public Meeting: A public meeting should be made available to all Rubicon Trail users and user groups. This format should be used to help explain the reasons behind the Water Quality Control Boards decision to issue the CAO. The OHV community has many concerns and questions regarding the most recent action taken by the Water Quality Control Board. What does this mean for future usage? What are the next steps to be taken going forward? How can individual users and user groups assist the Water Quality Control Board in finding solutions to the challenges outlined in the CAO?
2. Economic Impact: Not only does the Rubicon Trail provide recreational opportunities to the public, it's a "center of commerce" for hundreds of local businesses. These businesses support countless jobs and are tremendously important to the stability of our local and state economy. A closure of the Rubicon Trail, for even a short period of time, would have a significant economic impact on these businesses and employment opportunities in El Dorado / Placer County and the State of California.
3. Winter / Seasonal Closure: The Rubicon Trail should remain open year round. There is no evidence that suggests a reduction of OHV usage during winter months would result in a reduction of sediment discharge. A decline of OHV usage naturally occurs in the winter months. Heavy snowfall accumulations in the Sierra ensure only seasoned, more experienced, off-highway enthusiasts consider an "over-the-snow" journey.
4. Extension Date: The Water Quality Control Board should consider extending the date outlined in the CAO for completion of the County's Operating & Maintenance Plan (O&M). The time frame proposed in the draft version of the CAO, does not allow adequate time to identify all sediment discharge issues (i.e. proper location for water diversions, etc.), or the implementation of such solutions. There is a possibility that the CAO may not have final approval until later this season, shortening the time table for implementation of the O&M. Seasonal weather conditions may pose a limiting factor in this decision. Any decisions made late in the summer could not be implemented until the following spring/summer.
5. Testing Transparency: Future water quality testing for sediment discharge, human sanitation and petroleum-based fluids should have complete transparency to the public. An oversight committee, that includes all concerned user groups, should be established to ensure testing transparency.

The Rubicon Trail draws OHV enthusiasts from around the United States and abroad to California for the opportunity to experience world-class off-road recreation. I feel that it's tremendously important to keep the Rubicon Trail open for all OHV recreational opportunities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the comments that I have outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,

Frank Ledwell